

Lightning talk | Election Integrity Partnership



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The Election Integrity Partnership (EIP) was a coalition of research institutions that worked together to detect and mitigate viral misinformation and disinformation and to support the real-time information exchange between the research community, election officials, government agencies, civil society organizations, and social media platforms. The partnership was constructed to monitor and document falsehoods about the election and trace how misinformation and disinformation coalesced around certain narratives and trends. In this lightning talk, the leaders of the EIP will explain the history behind its creation and operation and discuss what may or may not be replicable for future elections in the United States and around the world.

Speakers:  
  
Isabella Garcia Camargo, Consultant, Krebs Stamos Group  
Alex Stamos, Founding Partner, Krebs Stamos Group


Key moments

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1:04

The Election Integrity Partnership



3:32

Examples of Election Disinformation



6:07

The Long Fuse

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**AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION 1/10/2023**

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AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

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IN RE: STATE OF MISSOURI, ET AL.

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VS.

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JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., ET AL.

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CASE NO. 322CV01213

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EVENT: ATLANTIC COUNCIL: LIGHTNING TALK: ELECTION

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INTEGRITY PARTNERSHIP

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JUNE 24, 2021

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16 (Due to the quality of the recorded media, portions  
17 were unable to be transcribed and include inaudible  
18 portions. The transcript may also include  
19 misinterpreted words and/or unidentified speakers.  
20 The transcriber was not present at the time of the  
21 recording; therefore, this transcript should not be  
22 considered verbatim.)

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24 TRANSCRIBED BY: MELISSA LANE

25

**AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION 1/10/2023**

**Page 2**

1 (CLIP: 1:38-3:19)

2 ALEX STAMOS: The election integrity  
3 partnership started with our team in Stanford sending  
4 a group of interns to go work with the -- the cyber  
5 security and infrastructure security agency at the DHS  
6 to work election security. And what these interns  
7 found is, there's a lot of opportunity for them to  
8 contribute to the technical components of election  
9 security. They also found that there was a lack of  
10 capability around election disinformation. This is  
11 not because CISA didn't care about disinformation, but  
12 at the time they lacked both kind of the funding and  
13 the legal authorizations to go do the kinds of work  
14 that would be necessary to truly understand how  
15 election disinformation was operated.

16 So because of the feedback and the ideas  
17 from this group, we were able to pull together pretty  
18 quickly a project between four different institutions  
19 to try to fill the gap of the things that the  
20 government cannot do themselves. There are kind  
21 of four major stakeholders that we operated with that  
22 we worked beside at EIP. Our partners in government,  
23 most particularly those in CISA and DHS, but also in  
24 all of the local and state governments with whom we  
25 operated with -- with the election integrity

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**Page 3**

1 infrastructure ISAC. We worked with civil society  
2 groups such as NAACP, MITRE coming cause and the  
3 healthy election project that worked at both MIT and  
4 Stanford, and then we also worked with the major  
5 platforms, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, Reddit,  
6 Next Door and the like. I mean, some of those cases  
7 we had agreements for access of data. In other cases,  
8 we had to have individual analysts go work with them.

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**Page 4**

1 (CLIP: 10:29-12:31)

2 ALEX STAMOS: We find very little evidence  
3 that there's any foreign involvement at all. In fact,  
4 the vast majority of election disinformation in 2020  
5 came from Americans who had verified accounts and very  
6 large follower accounts.

7 So as one of the big changes that we point  
8 out in our report is that this information is much  
9 less about massive amplification. It's honestly less  
10 about things like algorithms and algorithmic  
11 amplification. It's a much more important factor now  
12 is that there are large follower account political  
13 partisans who are spreading misinformation  
14 intentionally, doing so in a multi-media context. So  
15 they're doing so online, on social media, but they're  
16 also doing so on cable news, doing so on the radio,  
17 through a variety of different outlets and are able to  
18 amplify their message and to motivate their followers  
19 to go try find evidence of the incorrect claims that  
20 they're making.

21 Where does this leave us for 2022 and 2024?  
22 So the election integrity partnership was a project  
23 just for 2020. We are looking at options for these  
24 different groups to work together in the future  
25 elections, but there is going to have to be work in

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1 the federal government level to decide, one, who is in  
2 the government is going to own disinformation as a  
3 problem. That is something that for at least in the  
4 American domestic context has not been figured out.  
5 And second, what kind of role should the academic and  
6 the NGO sector play here?

7 And one thing we're going to have to figure  
8 out is, not just from a funding perspective, but from  
9 a privacy and data access perspective. One of the  
10 things that continues to happen is, we continue to get  
11 tighter and tighter privacy laws being passed around  
12 access to online social media data, and as long as  
13 that is happening, we're going to have to take into  
14 account those issues, and the need for academic  
15 research when passing those laws.

16 So this is something that we're going to  
17 continue to write about and talk about as we work with  
18 our partners to figure out how the same kind of  
19 function that the EIP filled in 2020, can be filled by  
20 somebody in 2022 and 2024.

21 (Audio ended.)

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I, Melissa J. Lane, Certified Court Reporter of Missouri, Certified Shorthand Reporter of Illinois and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I was asked to prepare a transcript of proceedings had in the above-mentioned case, which proceedings were held with no court reporter present utilizing an open microphone system of preserving the record.

I further certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and accurate reproduction of the proceedings as transcribed by me to the best of my ability and may include inaudible sections or misidentified speakers of said open microphone recording.

*Melissa J. Lane*



Melissa J. Lane, CCR, CSR, RPR

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